

THE
MONTHLY



GULL
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BIRDING CALENDAR

October is one of the best months for birding in the Bay Area. Birds are everywhere either leaving the area for balmy climes in the south or arriving here from less hospitable climates in the north. Some, of course, are gone already; others have not yet arrived. But what makes October so interesting for the birder is that one never knows what may turn up. So a good tactic this month is to seek out those areas that have consistently yielded surprises. These include Bodega Bay, Point Reyes, Rodeo Lagoon, any point along the coast, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Alameda South Shore or Tubbs Island. There are many more good places, of course, but these are among the best for surprises.

We should also note here that October brings some of the most glorious weather the Bay Area gets during the year. The fog has mostly left so that the coast once again becomes fit for human habitation. The inland regions have begun to cool down. The level of visible air pollution has lessened with the coming of cool autumn breezes. You *will* see birds if you get out of the urban area, but even if you don't October weather is often reward enough.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Red-necked Grebe, Aug. 31, Rodeo Lagoon—BP, AM; two at Liman-tour Spit, Sept. 5.

Magnificent Frigatebird, Aug. 9, flying over Inverness Motel—GB; Sonoma Coast near Sea Ranch, Sept. 3—MG; the Santa Barbara Audubon bulletin reports one over the harbor on July 9 and "eight different birds were seen Aug. 3-4 along the coasts of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The four together at the harbor on the evening of August 3 were the most ever seen together in the state."

Hooded Mergansers, Aug. 25-29, Smith River, Del Norte Co.—R & CJ.

Albino Red-tailed Hawk returned to Rodeo Lagoon in August.

Peregrine Falcon, Aug. 6, Moss Beach—JH.

Lesser Yellowlegs, Sept. 2, Rodeo Lagoon—JC.

Knot, Aug. 29, two at Bodega Bay—LC *et. al.*

Baird's Sandpiper, Aug. 10, 15, 17, seven at Nicasio Reservoir—BP *et. al.*; one at Rodeo Lagoon, Aug. 22—BF *et. al.*, Aug. 26—L & FN.

Great-crested Flycatcher, Aug. 25, Battery Wallace, Rodeo Lagoon—BP BF, AM observed gray chin and throat and bright yellow belly at close range.

Purple Martin, Aug. 31, flock of 20+ at San Rafael—BP, AM.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Aug. 26, Rodeo Lagoon—L & FN.

Hooded Warbler, Aug. 22, made at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park—RS.

American Redstart, Aug. 31, two at Battery Wallace, Rodeo Lagoon—BP, AM.

OBSERVERS: Gerard Brady, Jim Clayton, Larry Curl, Bub Fry. Mrs. Melvin Grumbach, John Hollis, Richard & Claire Johnson, Dannie Jones, Alice Mericourt, Leroy & Fran Nelson, Bill Pursell, Elsie Roemer, Rich Stalleup—VI HOMEM, *Observations Chairman*, 339-1886.

WILDLIFE FILMS BEGIN IN NOVEMBER

The first film in the 1972-73 Audubon Wildlife Film series will be shown on November 27 at the Oakland Auditorium Theatre, 10th and Fallon streets, Oakland 94607. This year, as last, the series will be co-sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society and the Oakland Museum Association. This partnership proved successful last year, and we anticipate good results this year as well. In this era of inflation, we are happy to announce that ticket prices will remain the same: Season Ticket—\$5.00 for members of GGAS or the Oakland Museum Association, \$6.00 for non-members, \$3.00 for students under 18. Tickets for individual films will be available at the door for \$1.50; children under 12 will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

The first film of this year's series is Allen Cruickshank's "The Big Sky Wilderness." More details about this film will appear in the November *Gull*. Other films are as follows: Monday, December 11—John Taft's "Yosemite—an Ecological Visit"; Monday, January 29—Robert Futz's "Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains"; Monday, February 26—"Wildlife Safari to Ethiopia"; Monday, April 2—Thomas Sterling's "Twentieth Century Wilderness."

If you wish to purchase a season ticket, send a check made out to Oakland Museum Association along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Oakland Museum Association, 1000 Oak St., Oakland 94607.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Remember all those shorebirds, gulls and waterfowl you've watched on and around Albany slough—together with those castoff tires the young ecologists occasionally dredge out of the mud? The future outlook for the birds of this area has been clouding up because of the planned widening of Hoffman Boulevard, the extensive Albany fill plans and the commercial developments on Pt. Isabel. We are now glad to report, however, that recent events augur better for birds, birders and bay-watchers in general. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers clamped something like a "cease and desist" order on the Albany fill. How far it can be

extended or developed in the future depends on the legislature, courts and other unknown factors. The Stege Sewer District, we hear, eventually may give up its installation on Pt. Isabel. The U.S. Postal Service plans to build a bulk mail sorting facility on the point, but, we understand, would try to set aside 15 acres of bayshore for public use.

Leaders of the Save San Francisco Bay Association, some Audubon members and other concerned citizens, remembering their disastrous losses of bird habitats on Bay Farm Island and San Leandro Bay, have joined to work towards the preservation of Albany slough and Pt. Isabel shores and tidelands. Some even envision in the future a bird observation platform, feeding station for wild ducks and perhaps even a modest information shelter or visitor center—any of which would greatly enhance the benefits of this nearby natural area.

State senator James R. Mills will try to gain support for Proposition 20—the coastline protection measure on the November ballot—by cycling from San Francisco to San Diego. This can't hurt the Senator's image and will remind Californians of this crucial measure. Now, if only we could get Justice William O. Douglas to come and walk our coast—with appropriate fanfare, of course!

A dedicated young East Bay conservationist, Ronald W. Hyde, has opened his own campaign to make the cougar our national mammal. If you approve, contact Ron at 1415 Harrison St., Oakland, for posters and literature.

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, Oct 8: TUBBS ISLAND. Take highway 101, turn east on highway 37 (Black Point Cutoff), cross Petaluma bridge and—four miles farther—Tolay Creek bridge. Park immediately on other side of Tolay Creek bridge near the locked gate on the south side of the highway. We will caravan through the gate at **9 A.M.** The gate will be locked behind us. Leader: Raymond Higgs (355-6264).

Thursday, October 12: In addition to the monthly Golden Gate Park walk each month there will also be a similar trip in TILDEN PARK on the second Thursday of each month. Meet at **9 A.M.** at the Little Farm. Choose your own leader

Sunday, October 15: DRAKE'S ESTERO TRAIL. Meet at **9 A.M.** at the Inverness store in the town of Inverness (Park *behind* the store). The caravan will leave at **9 A.M.** for the trailhead, which is near the old site of PRBO. Be prepared to walk several miles. Leader: Aileen Pierson (587-4163).

Wednesday, October 18: SUNOL REGIONAL PARK. Take Interstate 580, turn south on Interstate 680 in Dublin, exit on highway 84 (Calaveras Road), turn left and continue to the sign that points to Sunol Park. Meet at the brown cottage headquarters at **9 A.M.**

Saturday, October 21: CASWELL MEMORIAL STATE PARK. Take highway 50 (Interstate 580) east to Manteca to the point where it intersects U.S. 99. Turn south for about one mile, then right at the

Caswell Park sign. Meet at **9 A.M.** at the ranger station (Day-use fee: 50¢). This park, located on the Stanislaus River, is a stopover for migrating birds. There is an excellent campground for those who wish to stay the night.

Wednesday, October 25: GOLDEN GATE PARK. Meet at the Academy of Sciences at **9 A.M.** Choose your own leader.

Dates to hold: November 18 & 19—Sacramento Wildlife Refuge and Gray Lodge.

GGAS GENERAL MEETINGS BEGIN IN OCTOBER

The first general meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at the Rotary Science Center at Lakeside Park in Oakland on **October 12 at 7:30 P.M.** A pre-meeting dinner will be held at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue, Oakland, at **6:00 P.M.**

October's program is in two parts. The first is a film called "Wild Wings," which was made at the Slim Bridge Waterfowl Refuge in England. Over 122 species of birds visit this sanctuary, so this film should provide good looks at many British and European species. The second part of the program will be a filmstrip and lecture by Jim Rosso on—of all things—the American Bittern in—of all places—Death Valley.

SUNOL HEARINGS POSTPONED

The scheduled public hearing before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on September 7 on the proposed development by Charles Moore of sections of the former Abbott Ranch near Sunol Regional Park was postponed until November 2 at the request of Moore's council. About 20 conservationists had appeared to testify at the September 7 hearing. They fear that the proposed residential development on the former Abbott Ranch will seriously compromise the wilderness status of Sunol Park. Conservationists are also urging the East Bay Regional Park District to purchase the land abutting Welch Creek Road on the east side of the park to serve as a buffer between the park and the proposed development.

According to GGAS member Alan Pistorius, who appeared at the September 7 hearing, "It's important that as many or more of us show up on November 2 so that this development doesn't sneak in the back door." The hearing will begin promptly at 9 A.M. at the county building in Oakland.

The Ad Hoc Coalition to Save Sunol Park and Adjacent Lands has planned a Save Sunol Park Day for Sunday, October 15 at 9 A.M. There will be a hike to acquaint people with the park, a number of speakers on the park's history, and a picnic. Bring friends and food. Meet at the intersection of Calaveras and Welch Creek roads. Monitors will be there to provide further directions. For information, call Bob Leyland (658-7927 or 655-7526).

CONSERVATIONISTS MOVE TO SAVE MT. DIABLO

Many people think Mt. Diablo State Park includes the entire mountain, but it does not. With the exception of a narrow strip of state land that runs down the south roadway, only about the top third of the mountain lies within park boundaries. William Penn Mott, head of the state department of parks and recreation, has said that the state would like to add another 5,000 acres to the park, but that funds for this are lacking.

In an effort to save the mountain from possible urban encroachment, some local conservationists have formed the Save Mt. Diablo Committee. The committee would appreciate any help that can be offered as well as any contributions to be used toward the future purchase of lands adjacent to the park. The committee meets at 7:30 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Rancho San Miguel School in Walnut Creek. Contributions should be made payable to "Sierra Club Foundation for Save Mt. Diablo Fund" and sent to: Save Mt. Diablo Committee, P.O. Box 25, Concord, Calif, 94522.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Participants on the May 26th hike on the north slope of Mt Tamalpais enjoyed a pleasant walk through meadow and forest, by marsh and lake shore. They found 41 species of birds, including a Black-throated Gray Warbler and an immature Great Horned Owl, a first for this area. Unfortunately, a Pileated Woodpecker was not seen this year.

Birders on the May trip to the Arroyo Mocho area near Livermore found 36 species, including Lewis' Woodpecker, Bullock's Oriole, White-tailed Kite, Western Kingbird, Black-throated Gay Warbler, Barn Owl and Phainopepla.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch*s

<i>In Memory of:</i>		<i>Gift of:</i>
Myra Browne	Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Boese, Blanche Mack	
The Yosemite Field School of Natural History Alumni.		
Walter Helms	Marion Avery	
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Jessie Saunders	Erline Hevel, Elsie Roemer	
Susan Williams	William W. Mather	

A gift was made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch*:

<i>In Honor of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
William J. Mack's 75th birthday	Blanche Mack

Donations were made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch* by Mary Max and Dvid Ritner.

—ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 94610 (451-6267).



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THE GULL

October

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*.
Monthly meetings—second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership—Local & National \$12 per year,
(individual); \$15 (family); includes *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE GULL*. Subscriptions to
THE GULL separately \$2 per year. High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.